

Special Benefits For Certain World War II Veterans

Public Law (P.L.) 106-169, enacted on December 14, 1999 provides special benefits to certain World War II veterans. The law applies to veterans who served in the active military, naval or air services of the United States. It also includes Filipino veterans of World War II who served in the organized military forces of the Philippines while those forces were in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What The Law Says

Under P.L. 106-169, veterans who served in the U.S. military during the period beginning September 16, 1940 and through July 24, 1947, or who served in the organized military of the Philippines during the period beginning July 26, 1941 and through December 30, 1946 **and** who also meet the other qualifications may be entitled to receive a special benefit for each month after September 2000 they subsequently reside outside the U.S.

Who May Qualify

Under the new law, you must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for the special benefits:

- be age 65 or older on December 14, 1999, the date P.L. 106-169 was enacted;
- be a World War II veteran as described above;
- file an application for the special veterans' benefits;
- be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for December 1999;
- be eligible for SSI for the month you apply for the special benefits; and

- have other benefit income that is **less than** 75 percent of the current SSI federal benefit rate.

When Do The Benefits Start?

A veteran who meets all the requirements described above will be entitled to special Title VIII benefits for each month after September 2000 in which he or she is residing outside the United States starting on the first day of the month. Although the law is effective for months after September 2000, SSA expects to be able to pay benefits sooner, perhaps as early as May 2000.

The Special Benefit Amount

Qualified veterans will receive a monthly benefit equal to 75 percent of the current SSI federal benefit rate **less** the amount of the veteran's benefit income for the month. There is no provision for the payment of benefits to dependents or survivors.

"Benefit income" means any recurring payments such as annuities, pensions, retirement or disability benefits that the veteran received during the 12-month period immediately before applying for special benefits, or payments received later that are similar to benefits received during the 12-month period.

The current SSI federal benefit rate is \$512, effective January 2000. This means that the veteran's total other monthly benefit income must be less than \$384 (75 percent of \$512) in order to receive the special veterans benefits.

Evidence You May Need To Give Us

Following are examples of the kind of information you may need to provide:

- proof of birth;
- proof of citizenship or alien status;
- proof of your other income;
- proof of your military service in World War II such as U.S. military discharge papers (DD Form 214) showing honorable discharge;
- proof of service in the organized forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines; and
- proof of foreign residence once you leave the United States.

For More Information

Contact your local Social Security office for more information about applying for benefits. If you are in the Philippines, contact the SSA Division of the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Manila (SSA Department of Veterans Affairs, 1131 Roxas Boulevard, 0930 MANILA). If you are residing elsewhere outside the U.S., contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.